Demand and supply of fertilizer

† 4258. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made a comprehensive assessment of the demand of fertiliser upto the year 2000;

(b) if so, the State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of present demand and supply of fertiliser in the country;

(c) the steps taken to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of fertiliser; and

(d) whether Government have formulated an action plan in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The Government of India in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) has assessed the requirement of major fertiliser viz. Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) for Kharif 2000. The assessment for Rabi 2000-2001 shall be made before beginning of the season sometimes in August/September 2000. The State-wise assessment of demand of Urea, DAP & MOP, their availability and sales upto 15-4-2000 are given in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 104].

(c) and (d) Urea is the only controlled fertiliser and its imports are made on Government account to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous availability. There is no plan to import urea currently as availability from indigenous production and stocks is estimated to be sufficient to meet the requirement during Kharif 2000. Besides Urea, DAP and MOP are also imported. While MOP is entirely imported, imports of DAP are made to the extent these are required by the private trade. The contracting of imports for both DAP and MOP shall begin after the Government has announced the rates of concession on them under the Concession Scheme of DAC. However, to augment the supply of these fertilisers, in case of emergency/exigency, buffer stock is operated with the help of M/s. Indian Potash Limited under the supervision of DAC.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.